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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:)
Michael V. Maloney et al.)
Serial No. unknown)
Filed: December 5, 2000) Attorney Docket 1-22795
For: VEHICLE WHEEL COVER)
RETENTION SYSTEM AND)
METHOD FOR PRODUCING)
SAME)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Sir:

Prior to a substantive examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.125 please delete the specification found on pages 1-16 of the above-identified application and substitute therefor the specification on the attached pages 1-7, and delete the specification found on page 21 of the above-identified

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application and substitute therefore the specification found on the attached page 8. The substitute specification contains no new matter and corresponds to pages 1-8 and 11 of the specification of U.S. Serial No. 08/203,058, filed February 28, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,435,631, and the entered amendments. Also, since no matter is being added to the application of record but rather only matter is being deleted from the application of record, it is believed that a marked up copy of the substitute specification showing the matter being added to and matter being deleted from the application of record is not required. Thus, only a clean copy of the substitute specification is being filed herewith.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please delete drawing figures 1-16 from the above-identified application and substitute therefore attached drawing figures 1-5. The substitute drawings contain no new matter and correspond to figures 1-5 of the specification of U.S. Serial No. 08/203,058, filed February 28, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,435,631, and the entered amendments. Also, since no matter is being added to the drawings of the application of record but rather only matter is being deleted from the drawings of the application of record, it is believed that a marked up copy of the substitute drawings showing the matter being added to and matter being deleted from the drawings of the application of record is not required. Thus, only a clean copy of the substitute drawings is being filed herewith. Formal drawings will be submitted upon approval of these changes and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-17.

Please add new Claims 18-45 as follows:

18. A method for securing a wheel cover to a vehicle wheel comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a vehicle wheel including an outboard tire bead seat retaining flange and a wheel disc, the retaining flange and the wheel disc cooperating to define an

outboard surface of the vehicle wheel, the wheel disc having a plurality of windows formed therein;

(b) providing a wheel cover having an outer surface and an inner surface, the wheel cover having a styled configuration including selected portions which do not closely follow the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface, the wheel cover having a plurality of decorative openings formed therein, at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover defining an edge;

(c) positioning the wheel cover and the vehicle wheel relative to one another so that the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface are spaced apart from the vehicle wheel outboard surface and the edge of the wheel cover decorative openings extends slightly past an adjacent edge of the wheel disc windows to effectively overlap the edge of the windows; and

(d) permanently securing the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel by using an expandable foam adhesive which is applied at least between the spaced apart surfaces of the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface for contact therewith to thereby enable the expandable foam adhesive to secure the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel.

19. The method according to Claim 18 wherein at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover corresponding to the windows formed in the wheel disc.

20. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the wheel cover includes an outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange.

21. The method according to Claim 20 wherein the wheel cover outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange generally follows the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface.

22. The method according to Claim 20 wherein the uncovered portion of the retaining flange is painted silver.

23. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the wheel cover includes an inner peripheral portion which extends toward but does not cover a plurality of lug bolt holes formed in the wheel disc.

24. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the expandable foam adhesive covers substantially an entire interface between the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface.

25. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the wheel cover includes an outer peripheral portion which is attached to the retaining flange of the vehicle wheel by a mechanical lock.

26. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from steel.

27. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from aluminum.

28. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the wheel cover outer surface is chrome plated.

29. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle wheel includes a wheel rim and a wheel disc which are joined together by a weld.

30. A method for securing a wheel cover to a vehicle wheel comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a vehicle wheel including an outboard tire bead seat retaining flange and a wheel disc, the retaining flange and the wheel disc cooperating to define an outboard surface of the vehicle wheel, the wheel disc having a plurality of windows formed therein;

(b) providing a wheel cover having an outer surface and an inner surface, the wheel cover having a styled configuration including selected portions which do not closely follow the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface, the wheel cover having a plurality of decorative openings formed therein, at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover defining an edge, the wheel cover including an outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange and an inner peripheral portion which extends toward but does not cover a plurality of lug bolt holes formed in the wheel disc, the wheel cover outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange generally following the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface;

(c) positioning the wheel cover and the vehicle wheel relative to one another so that the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface are spaced apart from the vehicle wheel outboard surface and the edge of the wheel cover decorative openings extends slightly past the adjacent edge of the wheel disc windows which extends slightly past an adjacent edge of the windows to effectively overlap the edge of the windows; and

(d) permanently securing the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel by using an expandable foam adhesive which is applied at least between the spaced apart surfaces of the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface for contact therewith to thereby enable the expandable foam adhesive to secure the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel.

31. The method according to Claim 30 wherein at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover corresponding to the windows formed in the wheel disc.

32. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the uncovered portion of the retaining flange is painted silver.

33. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the expandable foam adhesive covers substantially an entire interface between the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface.

34. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the wheel cover includes an outer peripheral portion which is attached to the retaining flange by a mechanical lock.

35. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from steel.

36. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from aluminum.

37. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the wheel cover outer surface is chrome plated.

38. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the vehicle wheel includes a wheel rim and a wheel disc which are joined together by a weld.

39. A method for securing a wheel cover to a vehicle wheel comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a vehicle wheel including a wheel rim and a wheel disc joined together by a weld, the vehicle wheel including an outboard tire bead seat retaining flange which cooperates with the wheel disc to define an outboard surface of the vehicle wheel, the wheel disc having a plurality of windows formed therein;

(b) providing a wheel cover having a chrome plated outer surface and an inner surface, the wheel cover having a styled configuration including selected portions which

do not closely follow the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface, the wheel cover having a plurality of decorative openings formed therein, at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover corresponding to the windows formed in the wheel disc and defining an edge, the wheel cover including an outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange and an inner peripheral portion which extends toward but does not cover a plurality of lug bolt holes formed in the wheel disc, the wheel cover outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange generally following the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface;

(c) positioning the wheel cover and the vehicle wheel relative to one another so that the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface are spaced apart from the vehicle wheel outboard surface and the edge of the wheel cover decorative openings extends slightly past the adjacent edge of the wheel disc windows to effectively overlap the edge of the windows;

(d) permanently securing the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel by using an expandable foam adhesive which is applied at least between the spaced apart surfaces of the selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface for contact therewith to thereby enable the expandable foam adhesive to secure the wheel cover to the vehicle wheel.

40. The method according to Claim 39 wherein at least some of the decorative openings formed in the wheel cover corresponding to the windows formed in the wheel disc.

41. The method according to Claim 39 wherein the uncovered portion of the retaining flange is painted silver.

42. The method according to Claim 39 wherein the expandable foam adhesive covers substantially an entire interface between the wheel cover inner surface and the vehicle wheel outboard surface.

43. The method according to Claim 39 wherein the wheel cover includes an outer peripheral portion which is attached to the retaining flange by a mechanical lock.

44. The method according to Claim 39 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from steel.

45. The method according to Claim 39 wherein the vehicle wheel is constructed from aluminum.

REMARKS

Attached herewith are a substitute specification and substitute drawings. The substitute specification corresponds to the specification originally filed in connection with U.S. Serial No. 08/203,058, filed February 28, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,435,631, and subsequently amended on April 14, 1994 and November 16, 1994. The substitute drawings correspond to the drawings originally filed in connection U.S. Serial No. 08/203,058, filed February 28, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,435,631, and subsequently amended on April 14, 1994 and November 16, 1994. No new matter has been added to the specification or drawings. Also, since the substitute specification and substitute drawings only delete matter from the application of record and do not add matter, it is believed that a marked up copy of the substitute specification and substitute drawings is not required. Claims 1-17 have been cancelled, and new Claims 18-45 have been added. The application now contains Claims 18-45. Favorable reconsideration of the application, in view of the above amendments and the accompanying remarks, is respectfully requested.

New Claims 18, 30 and 39 relate to a method for securing a wheel cover to a vehicle wheel using an expandable foam adhesive and recite therein that the wheel disc has a plurality of windows formed therein; the wheel cover has a styled configuration including selected portions which do not closely follow the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface; and the wheel cover has a plurality of decorative openings formed therein at least some of which define an edge which extends slightly past an adjacent

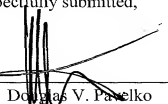
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edge of the windows to effectively overlap the edge thereof. Claim 30 includes the subject matter of Claim 18 and further recites that the wheel cover includes an outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange and an inner peripheral portion which extends toward but does not cover a plurality of lug bolt holes formed in the wheel disc, and that the wheel cover outer peripheral portion which covers only a portion of the retaining flange generally follows the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface. Claim 39 includes the subject matter of Claim 30 and further recites that the wheel includes a wheel rim and a wheel disc joined together by a weld, and that the wheel cover is chrome plated. None of the art of record discloses or suggests a method for securing a wheel cover to a vehicle wheel using an expandable foam adhesive wherein selected portions of the wheel cover inner surface do not closely follow the contour of the vehicle wheel outboard surface and at least some of the wheel cover decorative openings define an edge which extends slightly past an adjacent edge of the windows, as recited in Claim 18, 30 and 39. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 18, 30, and 39, and respective dependent Claims 19-29, 31-38 and 40-45, are patentable over the art of record.

In view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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